

Dec. 23-24, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

A Blessed Christmas to you all! We are so close. What a birthday celebration. I can't believe that Jesus is two thousand and seventeen years old. He doesn't seem a day over thirty. It helps to be eternal along with having a birthday. Each year this celebration reminds us of our vulnerability. To become our savior, he had to make himself one of us. He had to become a helpless child so he could grow and teach us how to get to heaven. Who knew back then that the means of salvation would be to literally go through death.

There are a lot of times in our lives when we feel vulnerable. For many this season emphasizes those feelings. We endure conflict in work and family life. We suffer the loss of loved ones. We struggle with our own physical and emotional vulnerabilities. These are all things that Jesus wants us to know that understands as he goes through his life. Throughout this next year be sure and draw him closer and closer to you, for he wants to help you with all that you are going through. He has an answer for each of those problems, but we do have to wait. Advent isn't the only time of preparation. Our whole life is a matter of preparing ourselves for the day when we will stand before him.

I made a mistake in last week's letter. On January 7 you should have read days 85-91 for the Bible Study class. That will mean that we are 1/4th done. It seems like everyone is learning something. I know that every time I go through the Bible I get more insights. Only God could have put together a book that continues to reveal Him so much year after year and generation after generation. It is an amazing book.

On the back side of this letter is information on a program that the Archdiocese has put together with the help of Coleen Kelly Mast, who is on Ave Maria Radio. It is called LoveEd and is to help families deal with the sickness of so much of our current culture in terms of one of the most beautiful gifts God has given us, our sexuality. There is information on what level one and level two are but here are the basics. Level one is generally geared for children age 9-11, and level two is 12-14. The parent session on January 15 will help parents sort that out. The purpose of this program is to help parents as they guide their children through different stages of their lives. Unlike so many sex-ed programs in the public venue, this gives a healthy approach to who we are and what it means to us. The videos and booklets are beautifully done and parents find them easy to use. Parents who have gone through this kind of a program find that it opens doors of communication in ways that are so unnerving for them or their child. I strongly urge parents to sign up for this whether your children are in Catholic or public schools.

I gave a copy of my book to the Archbishop this week and will be sending it to a couple publishers to see what happens. I am hoping to have it on the parish website before long. I have to figure a way to safely do that. If only I were a fifth grader.

Don't forget the January 7th parish patron Saint party. Rocky, Bullwinkle, and popcorn in the afternoon and pizza and games in the evening.

The penance services went very well these past couple weeks. I am always happy with how faithful the people of SEAS are to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is all about what the Savior has come to do, forgive our sins and make us right with God the Father. **Remember the 5:30 Mass next Sunday is for the Feast of the Holy Family. The 8 & 11am Masses on New Year's Day count for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, which is not a holyday of obligation this year because it is on a Monday.**

God bless you,
Fr. Frank